

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected. Claims 2-7 are objected to. Claim 8-17 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 8-17 are cancelled herein rendering their rejection and withdrawal. Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein to stand in independent form, to broaden language as deemed appropriate and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues. For the convenience of the Examiner, APPENDIX I is provided herewith having a complete set of pending claims with all amendments effected therein.

REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document filed in this application on December 5, 2001.

TITLE OBJECTION

The title is objected to in the Office Action as being nondescriptive. The title is amended to read "COMPONENT MOUNTING METHOD EMPLOYING TEMPERATURE MAINTENANCE OF POSITIONING APPARATUS" to overcome this objection. It is respectfully submitted that the

amended title is sufficiently descriptive. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO ABSTRACT

The abstract is objected to on the basis that it includes reference to an apparatus when a method is presently claimed. The abstract is amended and a replacement abstract is provided herein on a separate page. It is submitted that the replacement abstract is in full conformance with 37 CFR 1.72 and MPEP 608.01(b). Therefore, reconsideration of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.


CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims. The Examiner indicates that the claims contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if put in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base and intervening claims. The claims are amended in substantially accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and to remove "thereby" and "eliminating" language. Reconsideration of the objection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

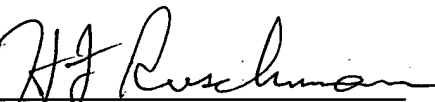
The Examiner has requested that reference numbers be associated with each of the claim elements either in the claim or in a table. The authorities cited do not require such a submission. Claim elements are not limited by specific structure of the illustrated embodiment. Such structure supports but does not limit the claims. The Examiner has also requested identification of support for amendments. Since the claims are not substantively amended it is respectfully submitted the present amendment is fully responsive. While, the Examiner may require identification of support for claim elements, the Examiner has not put forth any rejection based on lack of description which would trigger such a requirement as required by the cited authorities.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX I

ALL PENDING CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS EFFECTED THEREIN

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A component mounting method for controlling a component mounting apparatus, comprising:

picking up a component;

positioning the component on a circuit substrate; and

mounting the component onto the circuit substrate,

wherein a fall of the temperature of the component mounting apparatus is prevented by performing an idling operation automatically during a pause of component mounting operation, such as to reduce degradation of a component mounting accuracy due to temperature changes.

3. (Original) The component mounting method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of performing an idling operation automatically during waiting for a next circuit substrate.

4. (Original) The component mounting method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

determining if the temperature change of each of units of the apparatus or a suspending period is out of an allowable limit by a controller during a pause of component mounting operation; and

performing the idling operation when the temperature change or the suspending period is out of the allowable limit.

5. (Original) The component mounting method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

detecting the temperature of each of units of the apparatus by a sensor provided at each of the units; and

starting the idling operation automatically based on the detected temperature.

6. (Currently Amended) A component mounting method for controlling a component mounting apparatus, comprising:

picking up a component;

positioning the component on a circuit substrate; and

mounting the component onto the circuit substrate,

wherein a fall of the temperature of the component mounting apparatus is prevented by performing an idling operation when a switch of an operating section of the apparatus is turned on, such as to reduce degradation of a component mounting accuracy due to temperature changes.

7. (Original) The component mounting method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

measuring a duration of the idling operation or the temperature of each of units of the apparatus after the idling operation; and

performing the idling operation based on the results of the measurements.

8-17. (Canceled)